

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND AN
OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

PUBLIC MEETING: January 20, 2010 at the West Point Library at 712 Main Street, West Point, VA 23181. An afternoon public meeting will be held from 2-4pm and the evening public meeting from 6-8pm.

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Conservation and Recreation are announcing a study to restore water quality for a shellfish growing area, a public comment opportunity, and two public meetings.

MEETING DESCRIPTION: First public meetings on a study to restore water quality for shellfish growing area of the Upper York River near West Point and the recreational use areas of the Lower Mattaponi and Lower Pamunkey Rivers which are impaired due to bacterial violations.

DESCRIPTION OF STUDY: Virginia agencies are working to identify sources of the bacterial contamination in a shellfish growing area the Upper York and the recreational use area of the Lower Mattaponi and Lower Pamunkey Rivers. The shellfish condemnation area includes a total area of approximately 7mi² in the York and the impaired recreational use area is total of approximately 7mi² in the Pamunkey and Mattaponi Rivers. All impairments lie within portions of King and Queen, King William, and New Kent Counties. These streams are impaired for failure to meet the designated use of shellfish consumption or recreational use because of bacterial water quality standard violations.

The study reports the current status of the Creeks via sampling performed by the Virginia Department of Health - Division of Shellfish Sanitation, DEQ, and the possible sources of bacterial contamination. The study recommends total maximum daily loads, or TMDLs, for the impaired waters. A TMDL is the total amount of a pollutant a water body can contain and still meet water quality standards. To restore water quality, bacterial levels have to be reduced to the TMDL amount.

HOW TO COMMENT: DEQ accepts written comments by e-mail, fax, or postal mail. Written comments should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ during the comment period, which will expire on February 20, 2010. DEQ also accepts written and oral comments at the public meeting announced in this notice.

CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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